

# FRIANT

## WATER AUTHORITY

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January 3, 2017

The Honorable David Valadao  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Valadao:

Friant Water Authority (FWA) appreciates the relentless dedication you have brought to Central Valley water issues for many years. FWA commends you for introducing H.R. 23, the Guiding Responsibility on Water Act of 2017, which promotes a comprehensive approach to solving California's water crisis, especially for the San Joaquin Valley.

The current drought and regulatory constraints have been catastrophic for the San Joaquin Valley's communities and businesses. Experts are estimating that the Valley is approximately 2.5 million acre-feet short, as an annual average, of meeting the needs of our agricultural development. H.R. 23 is a timely and comprehensive approach to eliminating a major portion of that water supply shortfall.

H.R. 23 includes many common-sense provisions that FWA supports and has supported previously in very similar legislation. Title IV of the bill includes specific provisions related to the 2009 San Joaquin River Settlement Act. As you know, FWA has a number of concerns regarding the viability of the San Joaquin River Restoration Program (SJRRP) as contemplated by the Settlement and the Settlement Act. We have formally requested that the other Settlement Parties join us in a process to examine the Settlement and realize implementation of a SJRRP in a manner that is reasonable, prudent, and feasible.

Again, thank you for your continuing efforts to champion San Joaquin Valley water issues. We appreciate and support your leadership in introduction of this bill, and look forward to working with you and your colleagues in the

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Senate to ensure this will be a successful, bipartisan effort to secure long-term water supply reliability.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Eric Borba". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Eric Borba  
Chair of the Board of Directors